



Connecticut Department of
**ENERGY &
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION**

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

Public Hearing – March 17, 2014
Environment Committee

Testimony Submitted by Commissioner Robert J. Klee
Presented By Deputy Commissioner Macky McCleary

Raised Senate Bill 443 – AAC PESTICIDES ON SCHOOL GROUNDS, PARKS, PLAYGROUNDS, ATHLETIC FIELDS AND MUNICIPAL GREENS

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding Raised Senate Bill 443 – AAC PESTICIDES ON SCHOOL GROUNDS, PARKS, PLAYGROUNDS, ATHLETIC FIELDS AND MUNICIPAL GREENS. The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) welcomes the opportunity to offer the following testimony.

DEEP is cautious with respect to the language of the bill as proposed as we believe it is important to address some of the issues we heard while listening to municipalities' experiences with the current law.

Over the course of the last several months, DEEP held four Connecticut municipal pesticide listening sessions, which were opportunities for municipalities to discuss challenges and opportunities with the current pesticide policy. DEEP compiled the municipal thoughts into a summary presentation and shared this with all of the towns in a final meeting. Discussions included town staff, as well as school administrators, and facilities managers who handle the day to day maintenance of these areas. The web page link to the summary presentation is available at <http://www.ct.gov/deep/pesticides> by scrolling down to the section titled "Impact of EPA Registered Pesticides".

At the same time, in response to a legislative request (an outgrowth of the last session's efforts) DEEP contracted Dr. Chensheng (Alex) Lu, Associate Professor of Environmental Exposure Biology at Harvard University to produce a literature review and policy implication synthesis of the impact of United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) registered pesticides. Dr. Lu was asked to focus on those EPA registered pesticides that are most widely used on turf and school grounds, and the impact on the health of children and pollinators (including synergetic effects) using top-tier, peer-reviewed scientific journals.

Web page links to the rough drafts of the literature review papers, that are scheduled to be finalized by Dr. Lu in autumn of 2014, are available at <http://www.ct.gov/deep/pesticides> by scrolling down to the section titled "Impact of EPA Registered Pesticides".

DEEP will work with our state agency partners at the Department of Public Health, Department of Agriculture and Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station to interpret Dr. Lu's findings which will help lay the groundwork for public policy on pesticides.

We will continue to work with the Committee and interested stakeholders on this important issue.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this proposal. If you should require any additional information, please contact Robert LaFrance, DEEP's Director of Governmental Affairs, at 860.424.3401 or Robert.LaFrance@ct.gov (or, Elizabeth McAuliffe, DEEP Legislative Liaison, at 860.424.3458 or Elizabeth.McAuliffe@ct.gov).